Title of Invention: PERSONAL SEARCH ROPE BAG

This application is not related to any other United States Patent Applications.

This invention was not subject to federally funded research or development.

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to firefighting devices and methods. When firefighters arrive at the scene of a fire, it is typically necessary for them to enter a building to knock down a fire or search and rescue people. Ordinarily several firefighters enter the building by either following or carrying a single hose line through an entrance. Depending upon the nature of the fire, some of the firefighters fan out into rooms on either sides of the hose line to search for individuals in need of assistance.

As the building burns, smoke accumulates near the ceiling of each room and significantly reduces visibility. A firefighter who leaves the hose line to fan out into a room to search for individuals in need of assistance runs the risk of becoming disoriented and lost. Further, it is sometimes difficult for a firefighter to carry a victim from an unfamiliar building during a fire. Precious lifesaving seconds may be wasted if the firefighter becomes disoriented and cannot readily egress from the burning structure.

Brief Summary of the Invention

The present invention is a personal search rope bag that allows firefighters to more safely search locations distant from a hose line or mainline search rope. The personal search rope bag advantageously aids a disorientated firefighter in returning to a hose line and thereby exiting a burning building. The invention also allows a trapped

firefighter to maintain contact with a hose line or other firefighters while trying to find a way out of a structure. Additionally, if a firefighter becomes trapped away from the hose line, other firefighters can search for and find him by following the rope from his personal search rope bag. Further, if several firefighters become trapped in a room, they can link together the rope from each firefighter's personal search rope bag to simultaneously search out exits in various directions. Lastly, the invention may be readily jettisoned should the rope become entangled or ensnared in an obstacle or debris.

It is an object of the invention to reduce risks to firefighters that are associated with search and rescue operations distant from a hose line or mainline search rope.

It is a further object of the invention to provide an improved method of searching and recovering individuals in need of assistance in a burning building.

It is another object of the invention to provide a device that aids firefighters in retrieving and recovering injured firefighters who are distant of a hose line in a burning building.

It is an additional object of the invention to provide a device that is economically expendable and very durable. When properly used, this invention will save lives.

Brief description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a front view of a personal search rope bag.

Figure 2 is an inverted front view of the personal search rope bag.

Figure 3 is a top view of the personal search rope bag.

Figure 4 is an inverted front view of the personal search rope bag illustrating the retaining strap and the belt strap.

Detailed description of the Invention

The following is the preferred embodiment or best mode for carrying out the invention. It should be noted that this invention is not limited by the discussion of the preferred embodiment. For example, various fastening means such as Velcro® strips and snap fasteners or other such fasteners may be substituted for one another without deviating from the spirit of this invention.

Figure 1 depicts a front view of a personal search rope bag 1. A flap 3 is shown closed. The flap 3 secures a carabineer 9 shown in Figure 2. The carabineer is also known as a D-ring. One end of the rope 5 is passed through a grommet 6 and knotted to create knot 4. The working end of the rope is fastened to the D-ring 9. A retaining strap 7 is shown beneath the knotted end of the rope 5.

In the preferred embodiment, the bag 1 is seven inches long, three inches wide, and two inches thick. The bag 1 has two ends; one being open; and, the other being closed. A grommet is fixed at the closed end of the bag 1.

Figure 2 shows an inverted view of the personal search rope bag 1. Releasable fastening strips 11 are affixed to the flap 3 and personal search rope bag 1 as shown. D-ring 9 is attached to the working end of rope 5. D-ring pocket 17 accommodates D-ring 9 when flap 3 is closed. A snap fastener 15 hold the front and back sides of bag 1 together so that the rope plays out in an orderly fashion.

In Figure 3, the retaining strap 7 comprises two mating releasable fastening strips 11. In the preferred embodiment, the retaining strap 7 is one inch wide by nine inches long. The retaining strap 7 is of double thickness with a two-inch long piece of mating releasable fastening strip 11 on an end. The other end of the retaining strip is